In re TURNER ET AL. Application No. 09/520,684

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 4, line 18, with the following paragraph which is marked-up to indicate the changes:

Q

Merge sorting, illustrated in Fig. 1B, is a known technique for producing a single sorted list from multiple ordered lists whose values are known a priori. For example, two lists 920 and 922 of known elements sorted in ascending order can be combined into a single sorted list 924 by repeatedly taking the smaller value from the top front of lists 920 and 922, and appending the smaller value to the end of list 924. This example can be extended to a set of n known values, which can be sorted by first dividing the set into n lists containing a single value each, then combining pairs of lists to produce n/2 lists with two values each. Pairs of these lists are then merged, producing n/4 lists with four values each. Continuing in this fashion eventually yields a single sorted list containing the original values, but in sorted order, as shown in Figure 1B. Merge sorting can also be implemented using three-way merging (that is, merging three sorted lists into a single sorted list in one step), rather than by using two-way merging. More generally, d-way merging can be used for any integer d > 1.